

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW RACE OF *NETTION ANDIUM* FROM
VENEZUELA.

BY H. B. CONOVER.



In checking over a series of *Nettion andium* in my collection, it became apparent that specimens from Venezuela were somewhat lighter than a series from Ecuador and the central Andes of Colombia. After borrowing and examining further specimens the difference appeared to be great enough to warrant separation as a new race.

Nettion andium altipetens, new subspecies.

Type.—From the Paramo San Antonio, Culata Mountains, Merida, Venezuela. Altitude 12,000 feet. No. 11, adult male in the Conover Collection, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. Collected March 24, 1920, by H. B. Conover.

Characters.—The most salient difference between the new form and typical *andium* from Ecuador is in the coloration of the speculum. In the typical race the green of the speculum has a strong metallic bronze reflection in certain lights, but in *altipetens* this is lacking or very faintly indicated. The new form also has a generally lighter appearance, as the upper back, scapulars and tertials are browner, less blackish green and have grayer, less buffy, edgings; the head and neck are less heavily speckled and barred with dusky and the chest is less heavily blotched with the same color.

Description of type.—Head and neck grayish white, thickly barred with narrow dusky bands, which are heaviest on the pileum and sparsest on the throat; mantle grayish brown, each feather with a grayish buff edge and a narrow white band about a fourth of the way back from the tip; feathers of the upper back, the scapulars and the tertials dark greenish brown, edged with grayish buff; lower back, rump, upper tail coverts and tail grayish brown; upper wing coverts brownish gray, the tips of the greater row hazel, forming a band anterior to the speculum, which is velvety black except for the two or three innermost secondaries, which have a wide metallic green band on the edge of the outer web; tips of the secondaries light hazel, forming a band; primaries dusky brown, darker on outer web

and tip; breast grayish white, tinged with brownish buff on chest, each feather with a subterminal dusky spot and a dusky bar toward the base, these dark markings becoming almost obsolete on the lower breast; abdomen and under tail coverts light buffy gray; outer under wing coverts grayish brown, greater under wing coverts gray with a white edge to the inner web, central under wing coverts white, inner under wing coverts white barred with dusky; axillaries white with dusky shaft spots near tip. Wing (flat) 226; culmen (exposed) 41; tarsus 34; middle toe (without claw) 41 mm.

Range.—Paramo zone in the Andes of Venezuela and in the Eastern Andes of Colombia, south at least to Bogota.

Remarks.—I am indebted to Mr. James L. Peters of the Museum of Comparative Zoology and Mr. John T. Zimmer of the American Museum of Natural History for the loan of additional material.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

Nettion andium andium.—19: Colombia (Paramo de Purace, Cauca, 6; Santa Isabel, Quindio Andes, 1); Ecuador (Mt. Cotopaxi, 2; Ilinesa, Pichincha, 1; Antisana, Pichincha, 5; Llanganate, Tunguragua, 4).

Nettion andium altipetens.—24: Venezuela, Merida (Paramo San Antonio, Culata Mts., 3; La Culata, 4; Paramo de Frias, 4; San Antonio, 1; Merida, 3; Quintero, 3; Conefer, 1; Paramo de Santa Domingo, 3); Colombia (Lagunillas, Boyaca, 2).